GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5955
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
REPORT OF NIRD
C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a study report published by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad that despite a decline in the rate of rural poverty in percentage terms, there is no change in the volume of rural poverty in absolute terms;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the number of people living below the subsistence level in rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): It has been reported in `India Rural Development Report - 1999` publishedby the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) that despite declining trend, the total number of poor in the country has remained more or less static. This is because of higher population growth rate.

(c): As a measure of remedial steps towards alleviation of poverty, the Government have already started various programmes. Some of the programmes are as follows :-

a) Restructured self-employment programmes - Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana;
b) Employment Assurance Scheme;
c) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana;
d) Prime Minister`s Gramodaya Scheme;
e) National Social Assistance Programme, etc.